

**REMARKS**

This is a preliminary amendment in which a minor grammatical error in claim 8 has been corrected. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 2, 2004.



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Respectfully submitted,

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